**Mansfield Preschool Program – DRAFT July 1, 2009**

**Guiding Principles**

* All children are capable and competent, and can learn.
* Each child develops at her/his individual rate.
* All areas of development are important, related and integrated: personal/social, physical, language, pre-literacy, inquiry, creative expression and dispositions for learning.
* All children have a culture that must be understood and respected.
* A community with mutual respect for children and adults is an important foundation for learning.
* The learning environment must be stimulating, meet all learning styles and developmentally appropriate.
* Children learn through hands-on exploration – purposeful play.
* Adults plan and facilitate learning through planned experiences based on what children should know and be able to do and children’s interests; providing opportunities for child-initiated learning.
* Families and staff have mutual responsibility for children’s development and learning.
* Staff works with families as collaborative partners.
* Inclusive of all children – community of learners

**Program Goals**

* Provide a safe, caring and enriching - stimulating environment.
* Meet individual needs of each child across all domains of development.
* Develop a community of learners/classroom community to include all support service staff.
* Provide parents with support and information about their individual child and learning at home.
* Teach children how to function in a group.
* Promote parent involvement in different ways.
* Include parents in program goals.
* Promote language, pre-literacy, math, scientific inquiry.
* Promote independent self-sufficient learners.
* Promote creativity, problem solving and self expression.
* Use assessment to inform planning for class and individual children.